

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

AUTHORIZED
A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS
to the
COMICS
CODE

BLACK



10¢

DIAMOND

10
PDC

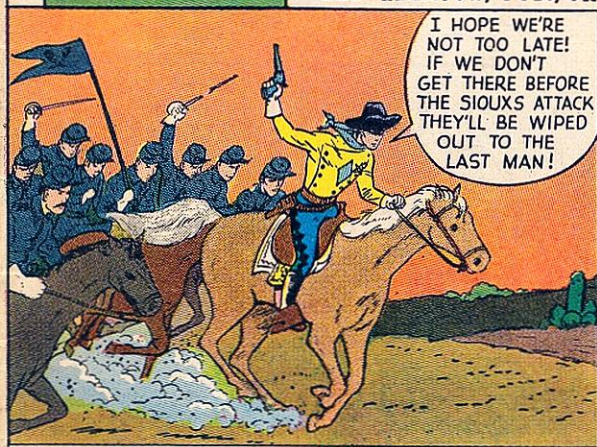
FULL
52 pages of
ILLUSTORIES

WESTERN

JULY
NO. 13

FORMERLY DESPERADO

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS



THERE ARE HEROES AND HEROES OF HEROES, BUT THERE IS NO ACCOUNT IN THE DARING AND GLORIOUS HISTORY OF THE WEST OF HEROISM THAT CAN COMPARE WITH THE BLACK DIAMOND'S LAST-MINUTE CHARGE INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH TO TRY TO SAVE A PLATOON OF U. S. SOLDIERS! SEE INSIDE!



WEB COMIC
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Think of it! THE HOT WATER YOU WANT—the moment you want it—from any sink cold-water faucet . . . just by plugging the amazing new Little Marvel Water Heater into the nearest electrical outlet. No boiler or tank needed! No fussing with fires. Attached in a jiffy—takes seconds to attach or remove. You merely turn faucet to regulate temperature.

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Worth many times its special

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

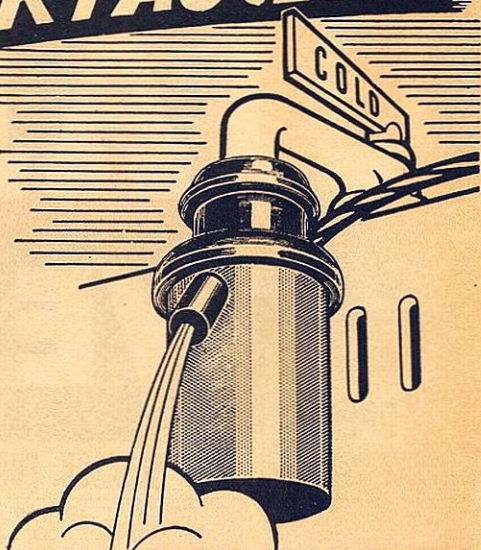
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☐ Enclosed find \$4.98. Send POSTPAID.

NAME.....

STREET.....

CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....

(PLEASE PRINT)

MAIL COUPON-TODAY!

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BLACK DIAMOND

IN THE DAYS OF THE DESPERADOES!

CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF THE PIONEER AND FRONTIERSMAN CAME THE GREEDY OPPORTUNIST, READY TO TURN FRIEND AGAINST FRIEND, TO BETTER HIS OWN PERSONAL GAIN! SUCH WERE THE MEN WHO PLIED THE INDIAN WITH TRINKETS AND WHISKEY, AND THEN CHEATED HIM OF HIS LAND!

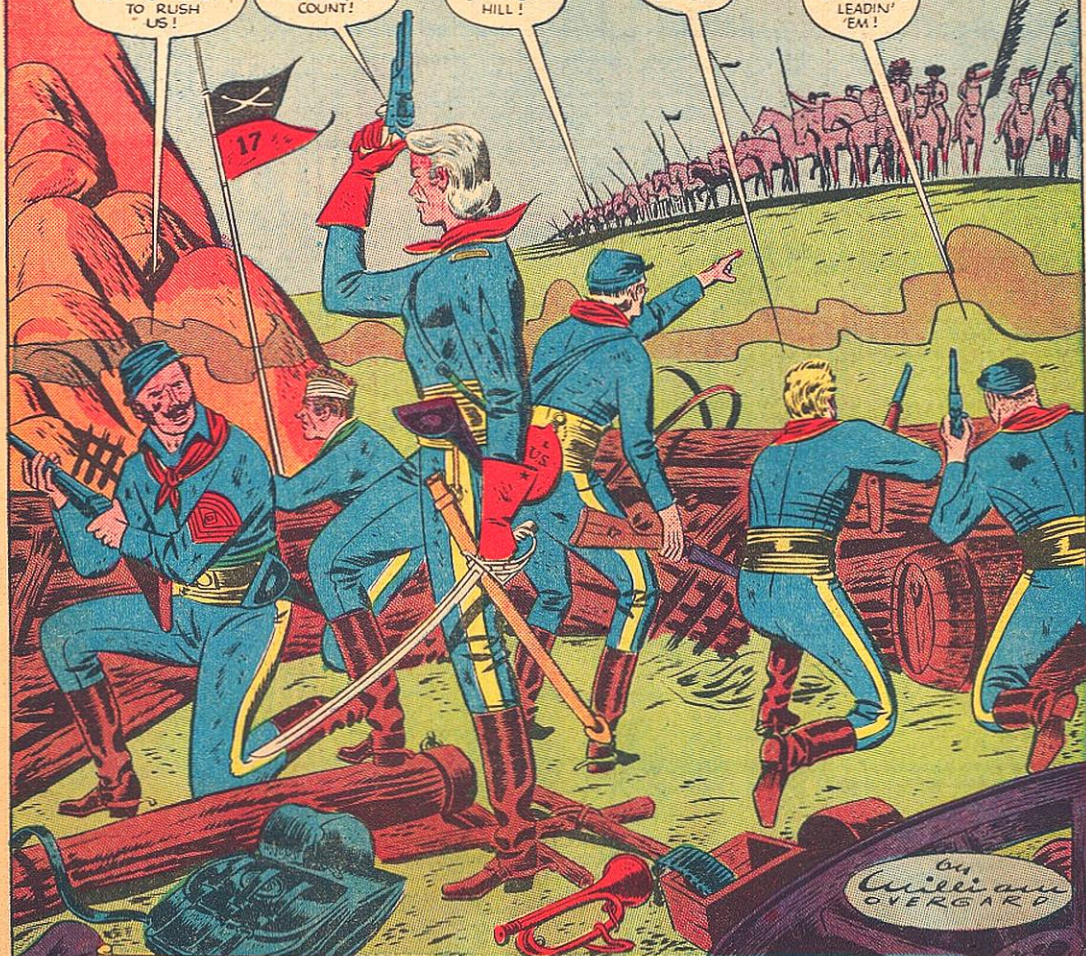
CAPTAIN!
THEY'RE
GETTING READY
TO RUSH
US!

STAND BY,
MEN! THIS IS IT!
MAKE EVERY SHOT
COUNT!

LOOK,
SIR! LOOK-
UP THE
HILL!

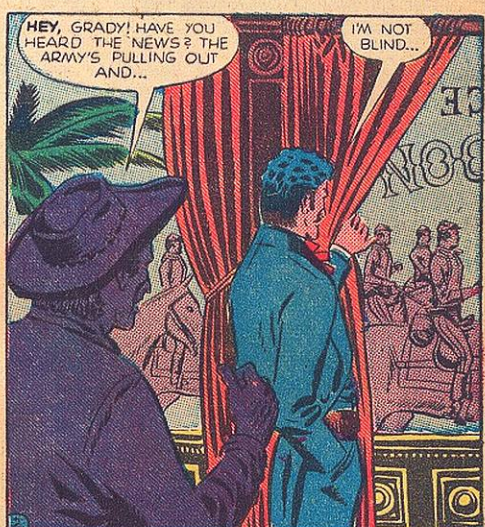
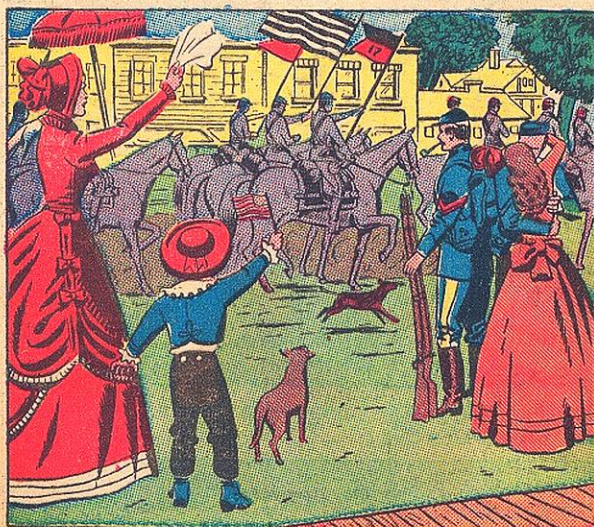
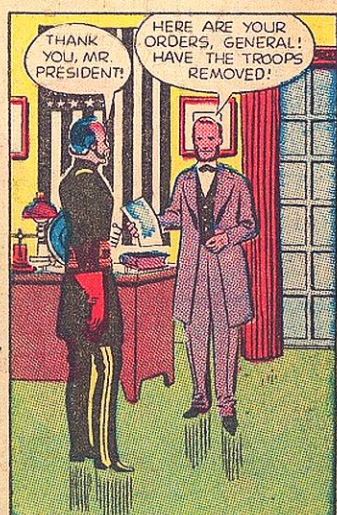
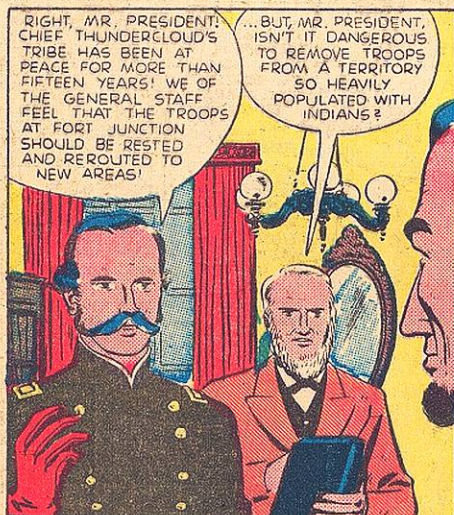
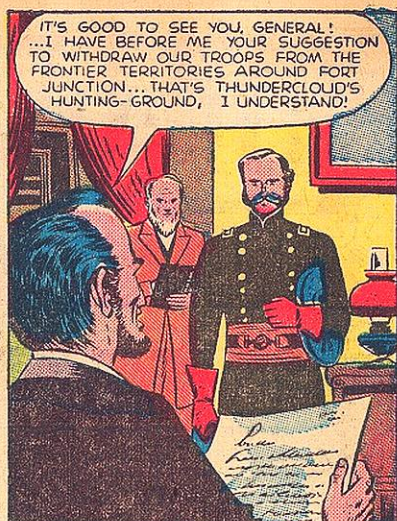
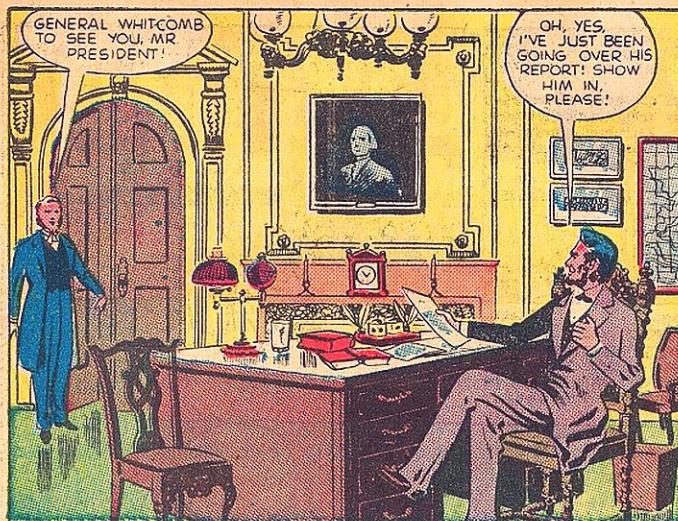
INJUNS!
HUNDREDS
OF 'EM!

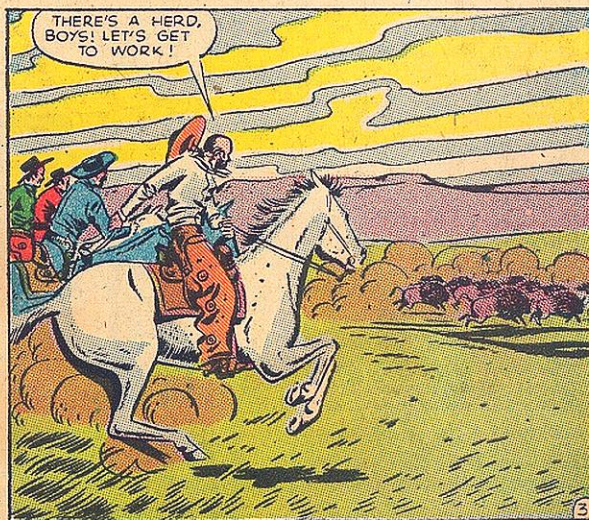
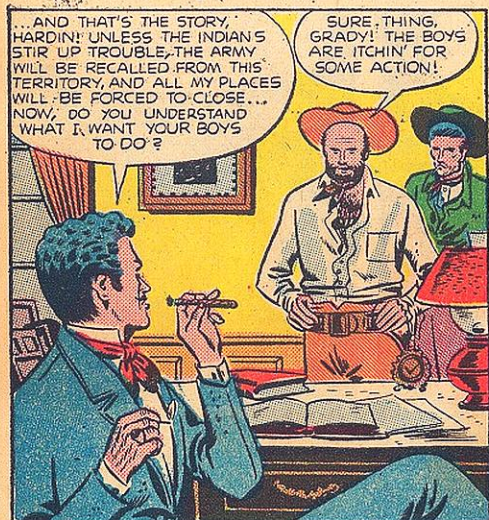
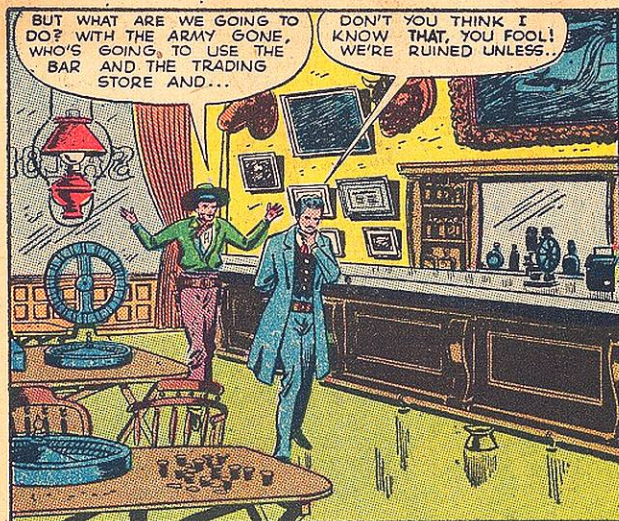
AND THE
BLACK-
DIAMOND'S
LEADIN' 'EM!



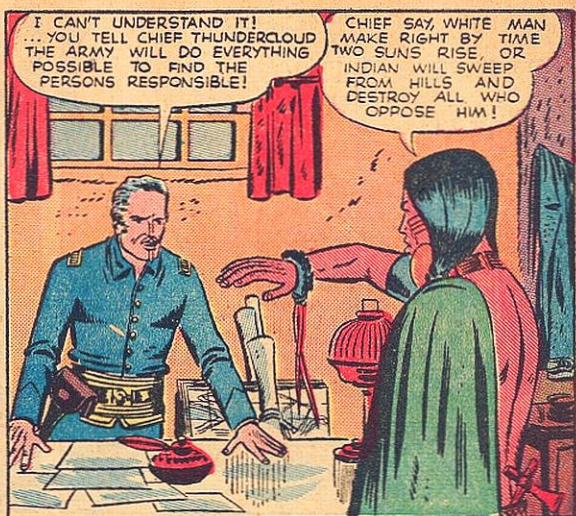
By
William
OVERGARD

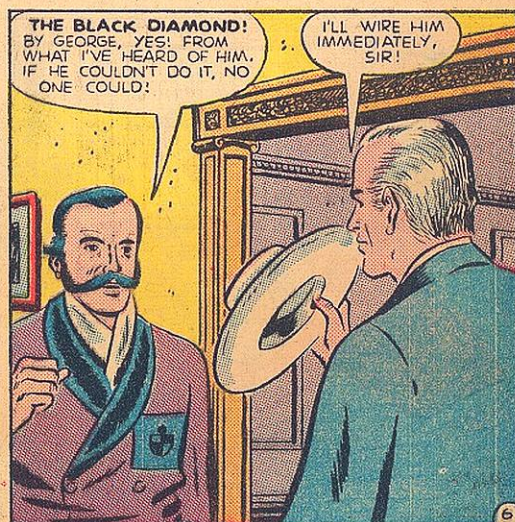
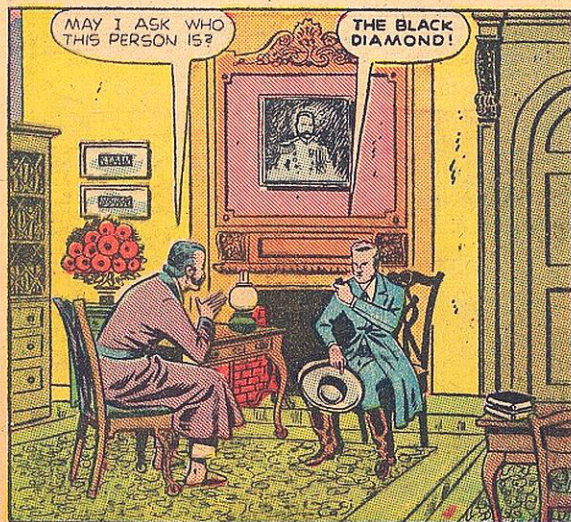
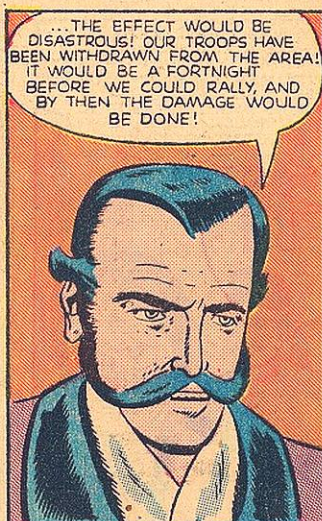
... WHEN TWO SUCH MEN, FOR THEIR OWN GRIM PROFITS, LAID A FIENDISH PLOT TO SET AN INDIAN TRIBE ON THE WARPATH, IT WAS UP TO BOB VALE AS THE BLACK DIAMOND TO STEP IN AND PREVENT THE BUFFALO WAR!

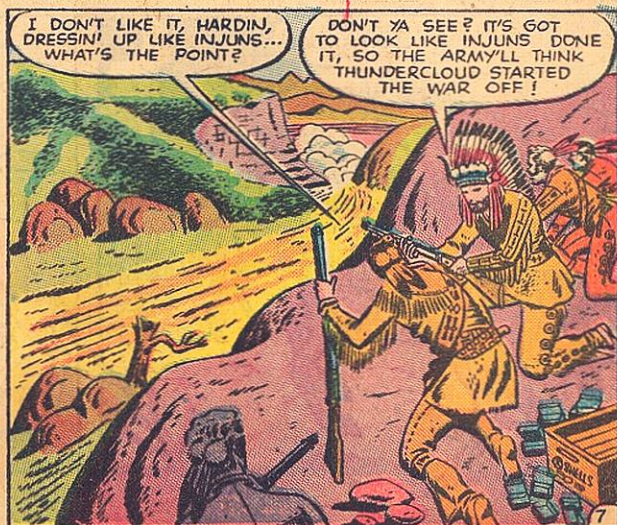
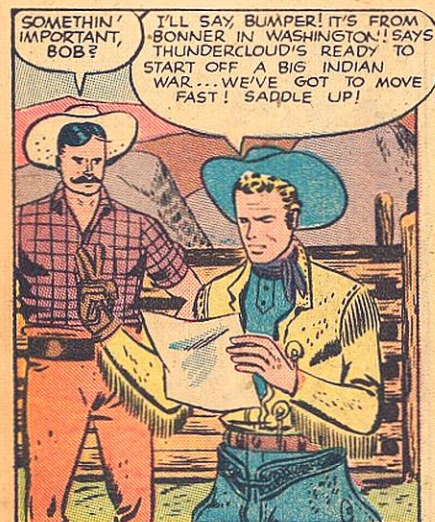




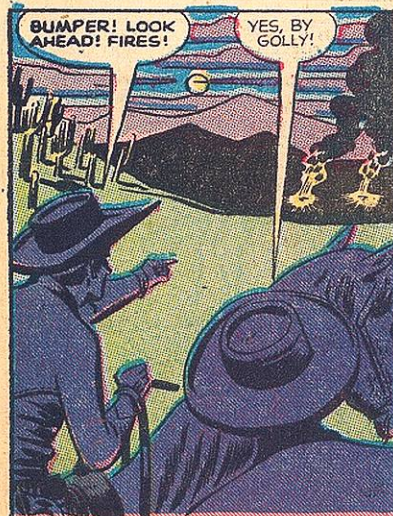
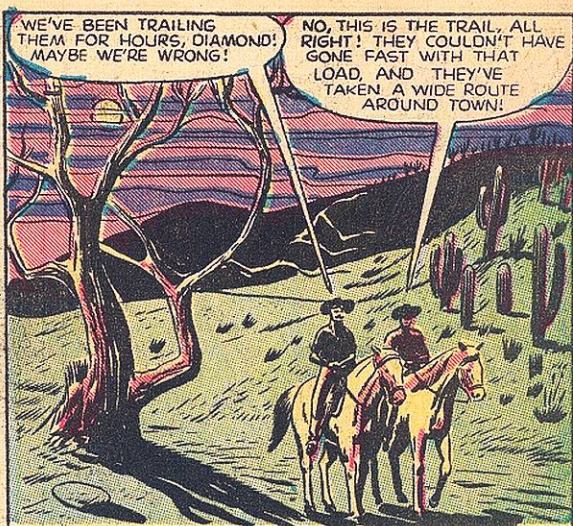


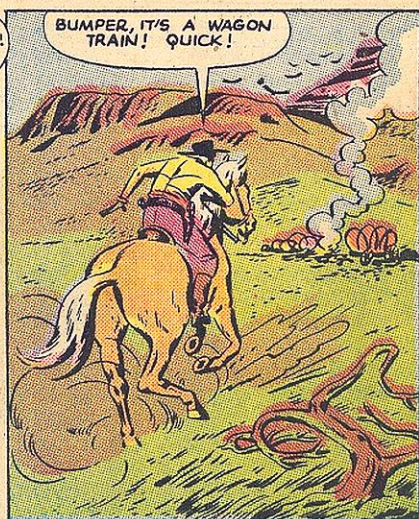


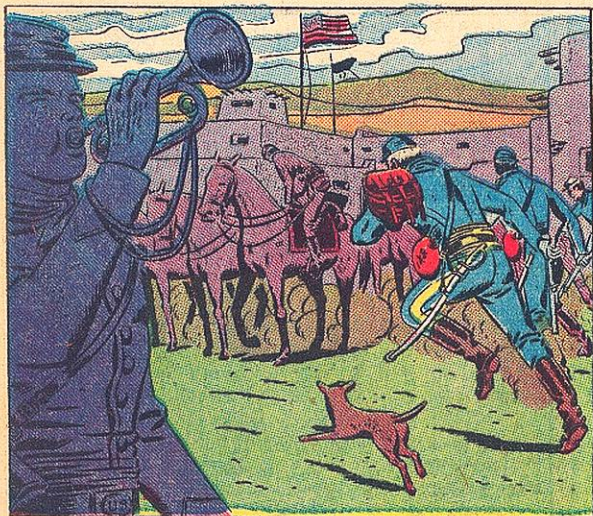
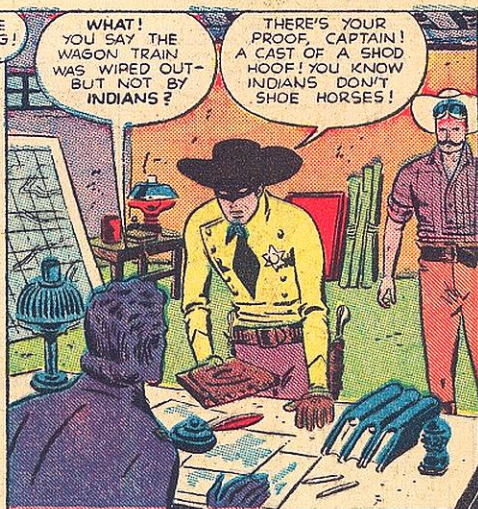
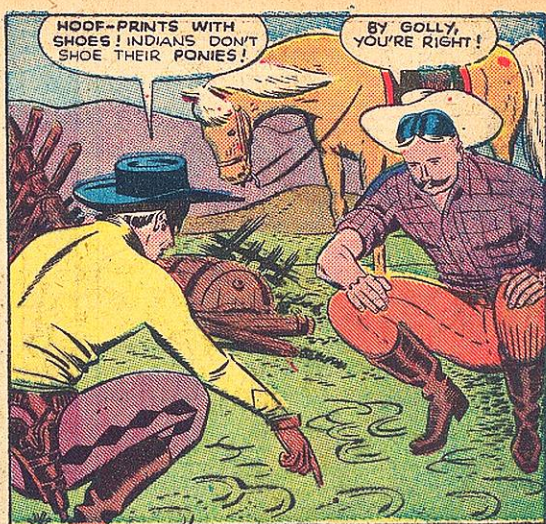


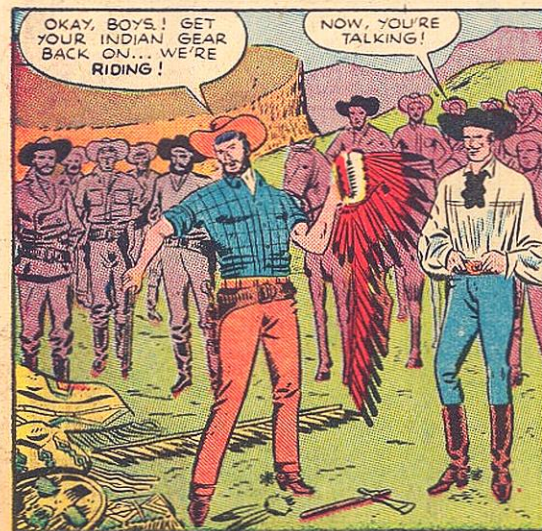














HERE THEY COME, BOYS—
HOLD YOUR FIRE TILL
THEY'RE IN THE
TRAP!



THERE'S THE WAGON
UP AHEAD!

GOOD
LORD!



IT'S NOT HARD TO SEE HOW
THEY WERE ANNIHILATED! THIS
GORGE IS A NATURAL TRAP—
ALL AN ENEMY WOULD HAVE
TO DO WOULD BE TO HIDE
UP IN THOSE ROCKS
AND...



BLAST 'EM,
BOYS!



IT'S A TRAP!!!



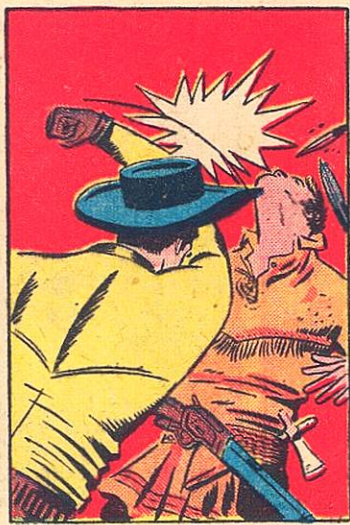
IT'S INJUNS,
SIR—UP IN THE
ROCKS!

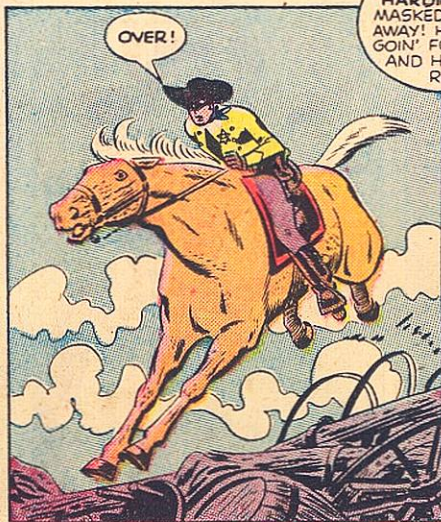
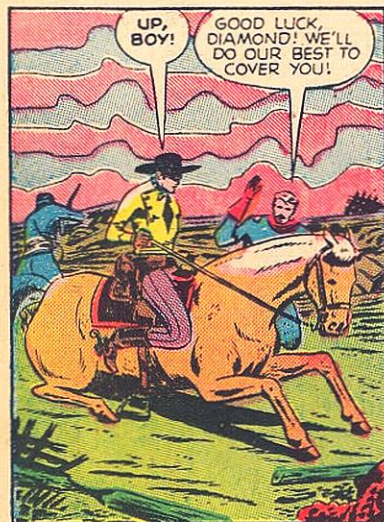
QUICK! MEN, TAKE COVER
BEHIND THE WAGON
WRECKAGE!

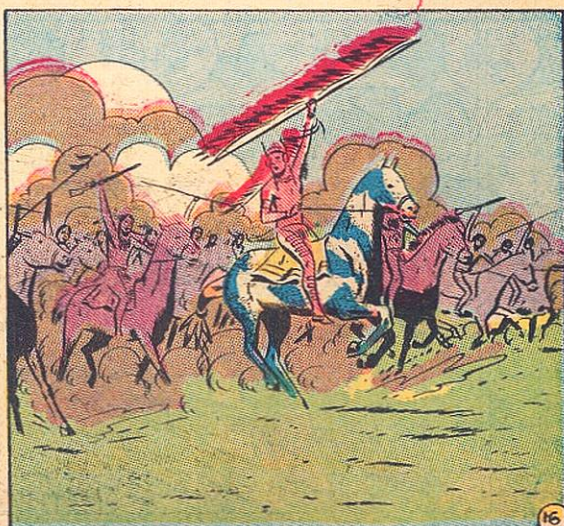
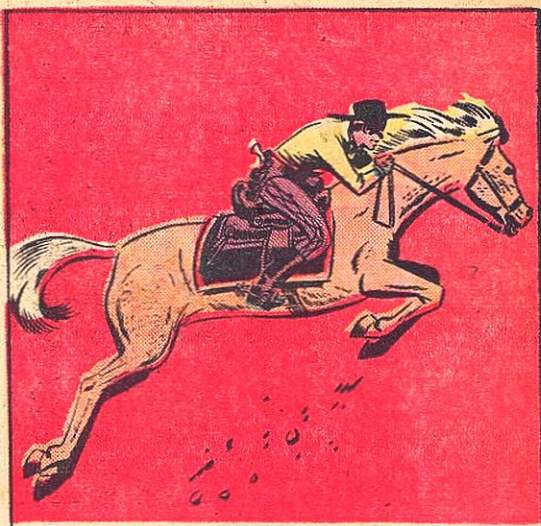
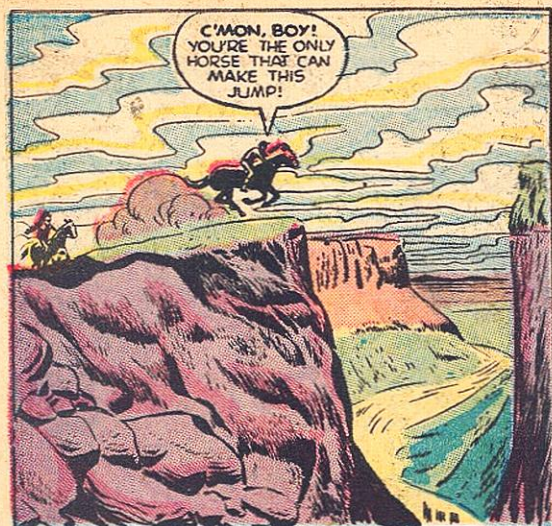


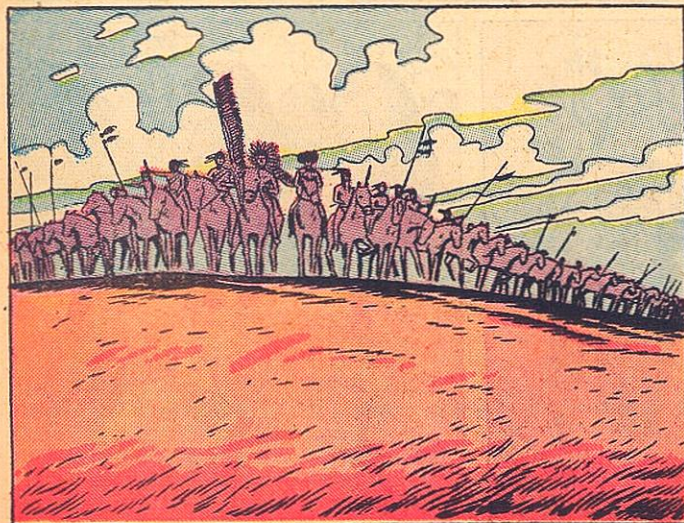
WELL, DIAMOND, WHAT
DO YOU THINK OF
YOUR INDIAN FRIENDS
NOW?

I'LL TELL YOU IN
A MINUTE,
CAPTAIN!

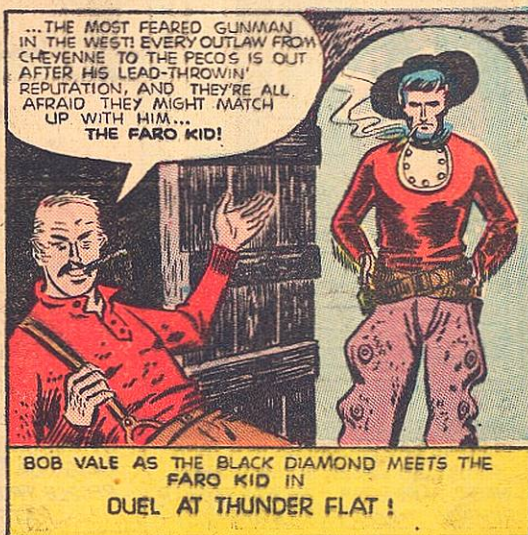
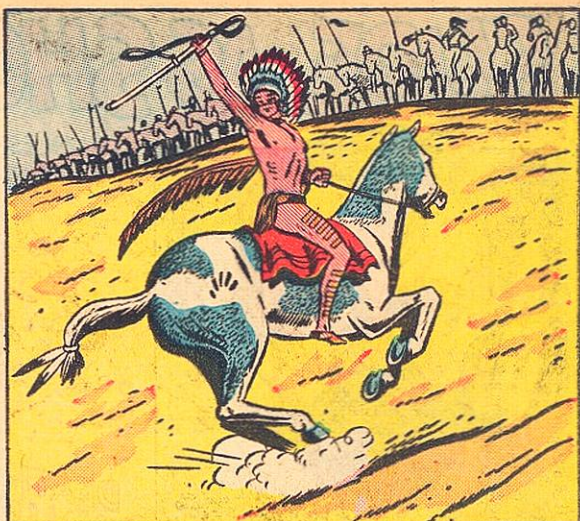












SURE AS SHOOTIN'

by
CLAUDE
MOORE

DRAWN ESPECIALLY FOR "BLACK DIAMOND"



"DUSTY" LUKES

THOUGHT HE'D PULLED OFF A GREAT JOKE WHEN HE SOLD A PIECE OF DESERT LAND TO A TOTAL STRANGER FOR \$100, UNDER THE PRETENSE THAT THE LAND CONTAINED SILVER!

THE STRANGER HAD A GOOD LAUGH ABOUT IT, TOO! OF COURSE HE DIDN'T FIND SILVER-THERE WASN'T ANY-BUT HE DISCOVERED RICH DEPOSITS OF BORAX WORTH \$500,000⁰⁰ ON THAT "WORTHLESS" LAND!

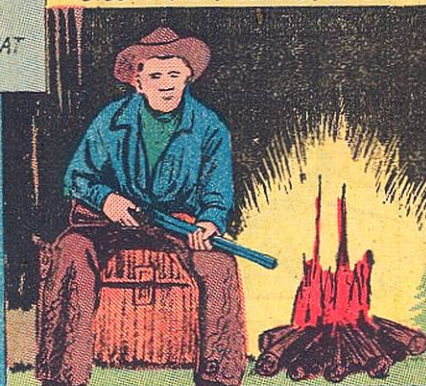


DEATH VALLEY

(266 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL)

THE AIR IS SO DRY THAT PEOPLE DO NOT PERSPIRE THERE EVEN THOUGH THE TEMPERATURE IS 135° IN THE SHADE! (AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY IN THE U.S. IS 65% - IN DEATH VALLEY 5%) THE AIR EVAPORATES THE LIQUIDS FROM A HUMAN BEFORE THEY REACH THE SURFACE - IT IS POSSIBLE TO DRINK A GALLON OF WATER EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY AND NIGHT AND STILL REQUIRE MORE! MANY OF THE OLD PROSPECTORS DIED IN THE VALLEY BY LITERALLY DRYING UP! THEY NEVER

REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THEM UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!



A DOZEN MEN DIED FROM SKUNK BITES IN CAMPS AROUND DODGE CITY IN 1860! - IT GOT SO BAD THAT MEN HAD TO BE POSTED AROUND CAMPS AT NIGHT TO WATCH OUT FOR SKUNKS!



A FORM OF PUNISHMENT USED BY A PENITENTIARY OF THE OLD WEST WAS TO PLACE BAD PRISONERS IN A TANK OF RUNNING WATER IN WHICH THERE WAS A HAND PUMP - HE HAD TO KEEP PUMPING TO KEEP FROM DROWNING!



IN THE GOLD RUSH DAYS SOME PEOPLE MADE MONEY WITHOUT STRIKING GOLD! ONE INGENIOUS FELLOW BECAME A MILLIONAIRE BY RENTING AND SELLING CATS FOR \$100 EACH TO PEOPLE TROUBLED WITH RATS!



IN THE WILD WEST DAYS - U.S. MARSHALL DUFFIELD WAS THE ONLY LAW-MAN IN ARIZONA OR TEXAS WHO WORE A PLUG HAT!

HE WAS DEADLY ACCURATE WITH A GUN AND KEPT HIS SKILL BY PRACTICING EVERY DAY - DRIVING NAILS INTO BOARDS BY SHOOTING THEM IN FROM 50 FEET AWAY!

"I WAS ASHAMED OF MY FACE

until Viderm made my dreams of a clearer skin come true in one short week"

(FROM A LETTER TO BETTY MEMPHIS SENT HER BY ETHEL JORDAN, DETROIT, MICH.)



If your face is broken out, if bad skin is making you miserable, here is how to stop worrying about pimples, blackheads and other externally caused skin troubles.

JUST FOLLOW SKIN DOCTOR'S SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

"I just want to be alone!" Is there anything more awful than the blues that come when your face is broken out and you feel like hiding away because of pimples, blackheads and similar externally caused skin troubles? I know how it feels from personal experience. And I can appreciate the wonderful, wonderful joy that Ethel S. Jordan felt when she found something that not only promised her relief—but gave it to her in just one short week!

When I was having my own skin troubles, I tried a good many cosmetics, ointments and whatnot that were recommended to me. I remember vividly how disappointed I felt each time, until I discovered the skin doctor's formula now known as the Double Viderm Treatment. I felt pretty wonderful when friends began to rave about my "movie-star skin." No more self-consciousness. No more having my friends feel sorry for me. The secret joy, again, of running my fingertips over a smoother, clearer skin.

Many women shut themselves out of the thrills of life—dates, romance, popularity, social and business success—only because sheer neglect has robbed them of the good looks, poise and feminine self-assurance which could so easily be theirs. Yes, everybody looks at your face. The beautiful

complexion, which is yours for the asking, is like a permanent card of admission to all the good things of life that every woman craves. And it really can be yours—*take my word for it!*—no matter how discouraged you may be this very minute about those externally caused skin miseries.

What Makes "Bad Skin" Get That Way?

Medical science gives us the truth about how skin blemishes usually develop. There are small specks of dust and dirt in the air all the time. When these get into the open pores in your skin, they can in time "stretch" the pores and make them large enough to pocket dirt particles, dust and infection. These open pores become infected and bring you the humiliation of pimples, blackheads or other blemishes. Often, the natural oils that lubricate your skin will harden in the pores and result in unsightly blemishes.

When you neglect your skin by not giving it the necessary care, you leave yourself wide open to externally caused skin miseries. Yet proper attention with the Double Viderm Treatment may mean the difference between enjoying the confidence a fine skin gives you or the embarrassment of an ugly, unattractive skin that makes you want to hide your face.

The Double Viderm Treatment is a formula prescribed with amazing success by a dermatologist and costs you only a few cents daily. This treatment consists of two jars. One contains Viderm Skin Cleanser, a jelly-like formula which penetrates your pores and acts as an antiseptic. After you use this special Viderm Skin Cleanser, you simply apply the Viderm Fortified Medicated Skin Cream. You rub this in, leaving an almost invisible protective covering for the surface of your skin.

This double treatment has worked wonders for so many cases of external skin troubles that it may help you, too—in fact, your money will be refunded if it doesn't. Use it for only ten days. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It is a guaranteed treatment. Enjoy it. Your dream of a clearer, smoother complexion may come true in ten days or less.

Use your Double Viderm Treatment every day until your skin is smoother and clearer. Then use it only once a week to remove stale make-up and dirt specks that infect your pores, as well as to aid in healing external irritations. Remember that when you help prevent blackheads, you also help to prevent externally caused skin miseries and pimples.

Just mail your name and address to Betty Memphis, care of the New York Skin Laboratory, 206 Division Street, Dept. D-1, New York 2, N. Y. By return mail you will receive the doctor's directions, and both



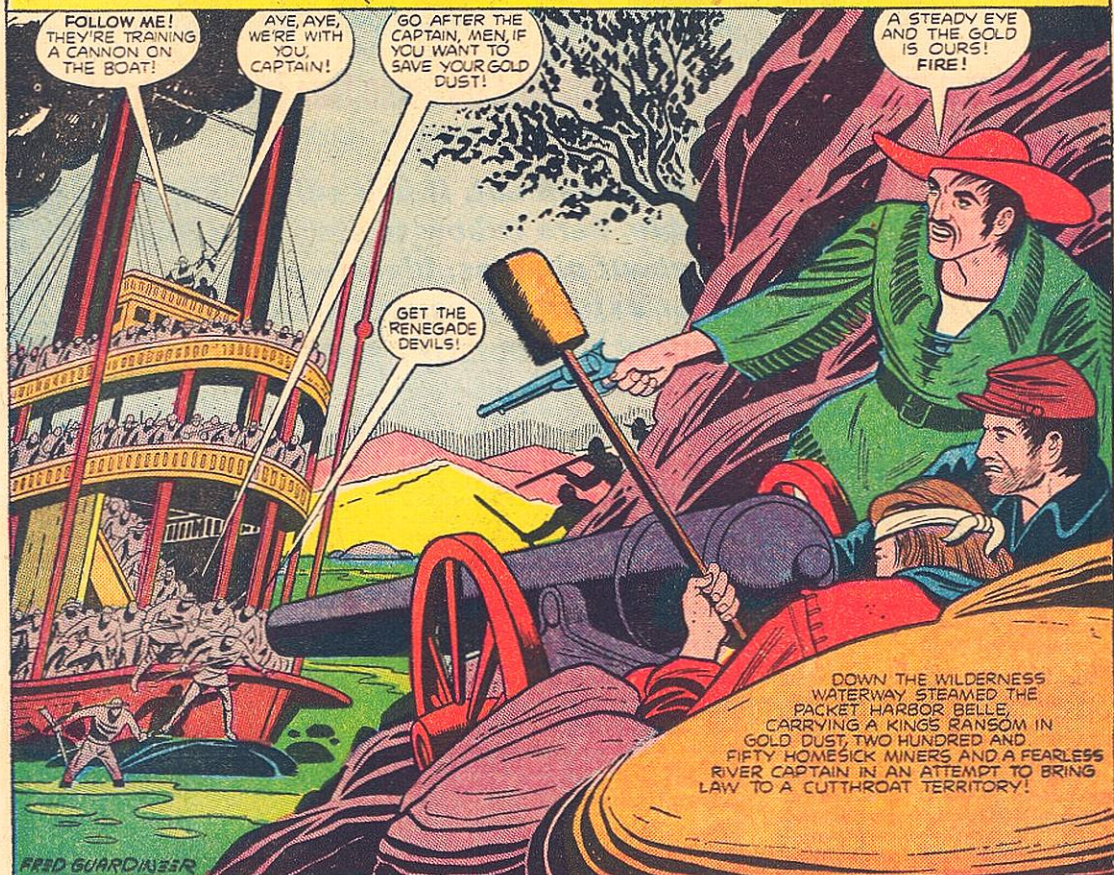
jars, packed in a safety-sealed carton. On delivery, pay two dollars plus postage. If you wish, you can save the postage fee by mailing the two dollars with your letter. Then, if you are in any way dissatisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. To give you an idea of how fully tested and proven the Viderm Double Treatment is, it may interest you to know that, up to this month, over two hundred and thirty-one thousand women have ordered it on my recommendation. If you could only see the thousands of happy, grateful letters that have come to me as a result, you would know the joy this simple treatment can bring. And, think of it!—the treatment must work for you, or it doesn't cost you a cent.



A screen star's face is her fortune. That's why she makes it her business to protect her complexion against pimples, blackheads and blemishes. Your face is no different. Give it the Double Treatment it needs and watch those skin blemishes go away.

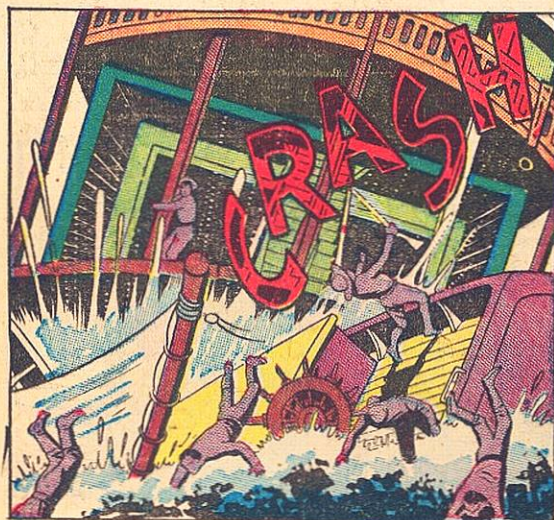
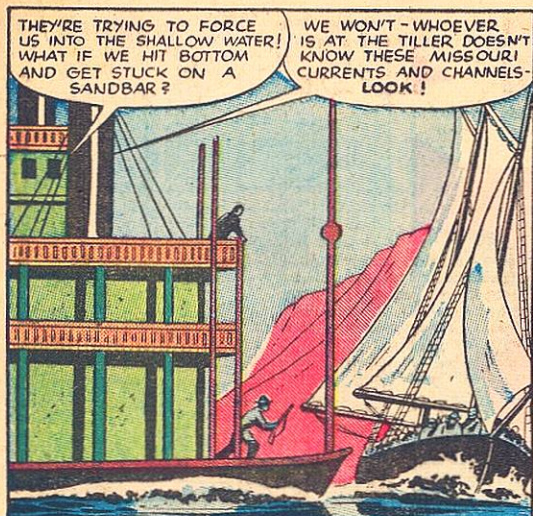
CAPTAIN JOSH BRAD

A GUN IN HIS BACK AND A CANNON AIMED ON HIS SHOAL
RIVER BOAT, "THE HARBOR BELLE," COULDN'T STOP HIM
IN HIS BATTLE WITH A BAND OF RIVER RATS!



SOMEWHERE ON THE MISSOURI RIVER, NEAR THE NORTHERN GOLD CAMPS, OCTOBER, 1869...







THERE'LL BE CLOSE TO A HALF MILLION IN GOLD GOIN' BACK WITH YOU, BRAD - THAT'S ENOUGH TO ATTRACT EVERY RIVER ROGUE!

MAYOR, I'VE NEVER BEEN ROBBED YET, AND I AM TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!



THEN YOU'D BETTER CHECK YOUR PASSENGER LIST! YOU COULD BE TAKING A BUNCH OF PIRATES ABOARD AND NOT KNOW IT!

WHEN A MAN WANTS TO BUY A TICKET, WE DON'T REFUSE HIM! IT'S BAD BUSINESS!



OKAY, OKAY, BUT ED HAMMER'S IN TOWN! YOU KNOW HOW HE FEELS ABOUT YOU FOR TOSSEING HIM OFF YOUR BOAT LAST TRIP!

HAMMERS TOUGH AND CROOKED, BUT HE HASN'T THE BRAINS TO HOLD UP A RIVER PACKET!



MAYBE, BUT HE'S THE LEADER OF THESE COPPER CITY HOODLUMS! I'D WATCH HIM IF I WERE YOU!

I INTEND TO, AND I'M STILL PULLING OUT TOMORROW MORNING AT SEVEN! YOU CAN PRINT THAT!



CAP - I JUST CAME FROM TOWN! ED HAMMER'S DOWN AT THE PALACE! THE WORD IS THAT HE'S WAITING FOR YOU!

I THOUGHT HE'D BE - WELL, I WON'T DISAPPOINT HIM!



WHY BOTHER WITH THAT RIFF-RAFF? YOU'RE A RIVERBOAT CAPTAIN! HE'S A BACK ALLEY CUTTHROAT!

IT'S AN UNWRITTEN LAW, MIKE! WHEN A MAN ASKS FOR SATISFACTION, HE MUST HAVE IT!

GIVE HIM THE WORKS, CAPTAIN!



CAPTAIN - CAN'T YOU SETTLE THIS OUTSIDE? I DON'T WANT MY PLACE SMASHED UP!

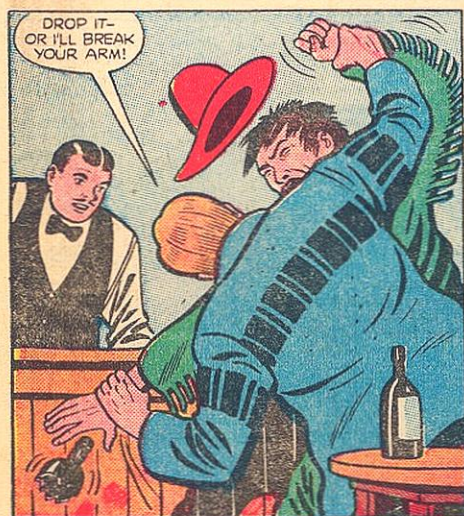
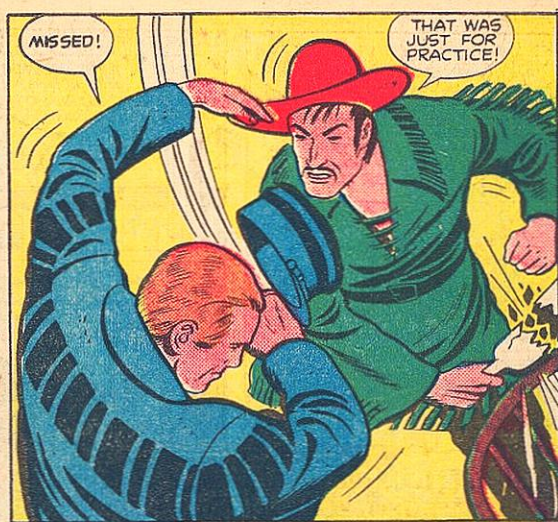
BUT YOU'LL DRAW CUSTOMERS LIKE FLIES!

WHAT ARE THEY BETTING, ACE?



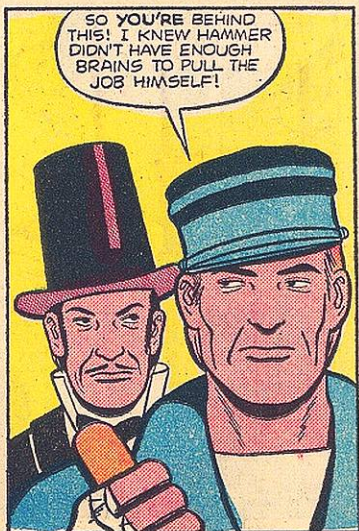
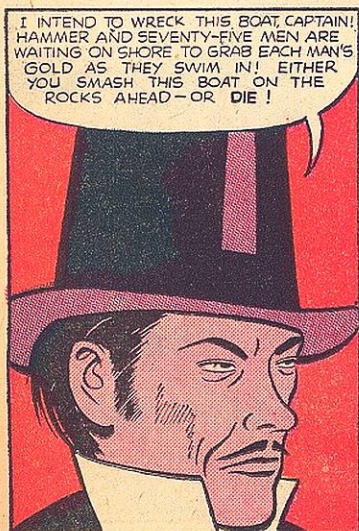
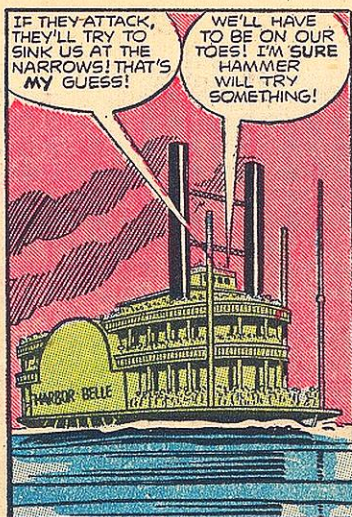
THE CROWD LIKES ED HAMMER AT TWO TO ONE ODDS! I'LL MAKE BOOK!

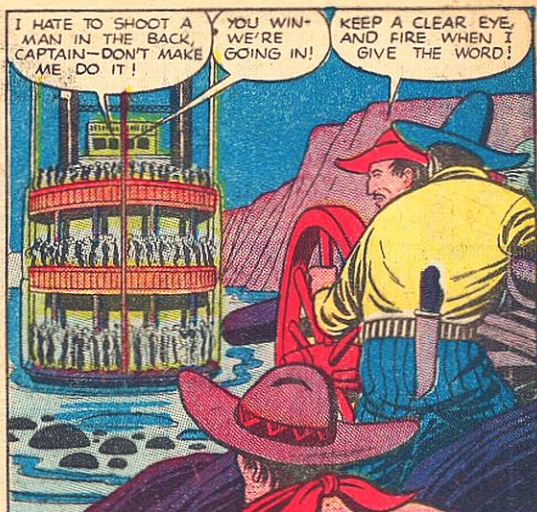
GIVE ME THREE HUNDRED OF IT! I'LL SETTLE WITH YOU LATER!

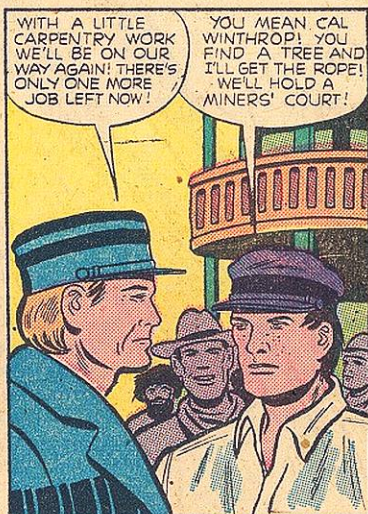
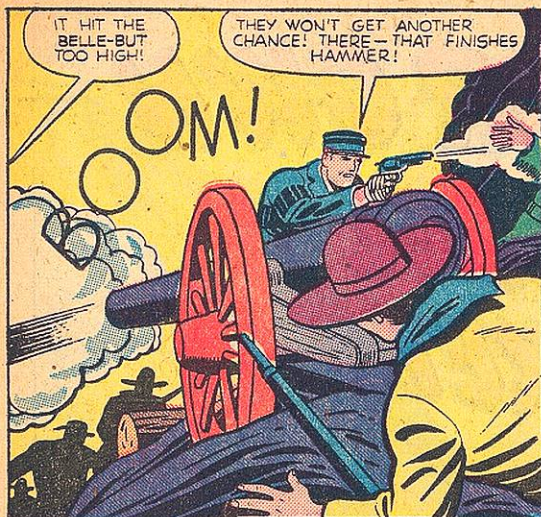


I KNOW! WELL, AT LEAST NO BONES ARE BROKEN! A MAN COULD BREAK AN ARM ON THAT OX'S HEAD- C'MON, LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP!









FIRE YOUR OWN V-2 MODEL ROCKET

JET PROPULSION!

This rocket uses actual jet principles. Will help you to learn the secrets behind inter-planetary flights. Extra rocket charges come with every rocket. You can always obtain more, so that you can experiment again and again.

SOARS
OVER
200 FT.
IN THE
AIR!

COMPLETE
WITH SPECIAL
LAUNCHING
STAND, EXTRA
ROCKET CHARGES
AND FULL
INSTRUCTIONS
FOR OPERATION

\$2⁹⁵

A NEW THRILL!

There's a new thrill coming as you send a real rocket soaring up high into the sky. It zooms up from its launching stand, but is absolutely harmless.

Drops safely, cannot injure anyone, and you can fire them over and over, having fun or experimenting seriously.

For only \$2.95 your rocket comes equipped, ready to fly, with special launching stand, extra rocket charges and full instructions on how to make your rocket zoom over 200 feet into the sky.

SEND NO MONEY

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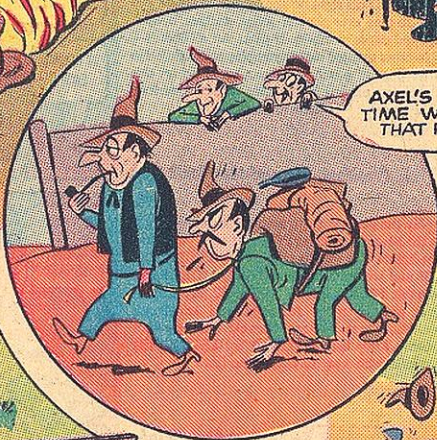
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SHERIFF WADE LANGLEY

WAGON train after wagon train had creaked its way through the dusty, sleepy cow town of Skull Creek. Sheriff Wade Langley lounged against the adobe door of the adobe jail and watched the trains go by through the stifling clouds of dust. He was filled with envy at the sight of the hundreds of families heading out to the abundant plains and ore-laden mountains of the far West. But it was not the gold or the rich farmland that called him. It was excitement! The lure of new territory, of the blood-tingling struggles that always accompany the settlement of a new land, meant life itself to him.

He looked down the shady main street of the town of Skull Creek. Where once there had been the brawling muddle of a frontier town, there was only a scattering of quiet citizens going about their prosaic business.

Sheriff Langley chuckled to himself, "I guess it's all my own fault, too. This wouldn't be such a gol-darned dull town if I hadn't been good with a six-shooter. I've been a pretty effective sheriff, if I do say so myself."

In the days following his restlessness grew. Each new wagon train made him ache to join in the rush for new lands and new lives. Each quiet and peaceful day made him more dissatisfied with his peaceful routine. Outside of tracking down a small-time rustler now and then, intervening in the frequent but mild Saturday night brawls in the Buckeye Saloon and settling disputes over water rights, Langley's days were uneventful. Skull Creek certainly belied its name.

Finally the pull was too much to resist.

One evening Langley spent a couple of hours in the Buckeye with Joe Twiller, leader of the most recent wagon train to camp in the valley near Skull Creek. The two exchanged news of the area, rumors of the trail ahead for the wagon train, then . . .

"How about adding another wagon to your train, Joe?"

"Well, Langley, that depends on whose it is. If there are some able-bodied men aboard, why sure. If not . . ."

Langley interrupted quickly, "It's mine, Joe. Skull Creek is just too dead for me. The day for a sheriff with a six-shooter is over in this section of this country. All they need here is a small-town constable who can take the drunks in on Saturday night and let 'em out Sunday. Why, my guns haven't been shot in so long they'll probably spit pansies. I'd sure like to come along and see if a change of scenery—and action—will keep me from turning old before my time."

Twiller slapped Langley on the back and shouted, "Sheriff, you're in! We're leaving Tuesday at dawn. Meet us at the cottonwood tree by the fork. And I can't tell you how happy I am to have you with us—especially with the Apaches ahead!"

The next morning Sheriff Langley handed his resignation to the Mayor and recommended that Bill Slade, the twenty-year-old that had been acting as his deputy, be made temporary sheriff

in his place.

"Langley," said the Mayor, "in fifteen years you have changed Skull Creek from a lawless frontier town into a law-abiding community. Everyone knows that it's your skill and courage that's done it. Why, you've traded shots with some of the West's worst killers—and bested them. It ain't right, sheriff, your going away and leaving Skull Creek with a new law officer—and one that's barely cut his teeth at that! It just ain't right. When word gets around that Skull Creek has practically no sheriff at all, we'll have all sorts of good-for-nothings invading the town!"

"But, Mayor," replied Langley, "You have Bill Slade here. He's what you need for a town like this. To be sure, he's no match for Jesse James, but he's able to take care of a town like Skull Creek. Nope, I'm going on to country that has a place for my kind. Well, Slade's waiting at the jail for me now. If you don't mind, Mayor . . ."

"Sure, Langley." The Mayor reached up to shake the sheriff's hand. "I guess all of us who have grown with the West want to move on now that things have settled down here. I guess you're right. Bill Slade is all the town needs in the way of law enforcement—just enough to make the boys mind their manners. He's a nice kid, but . . . Well, anyway, good luck and good hunting."

Langley strode out of the city hall and turned down the street toward the jail.

Bill Slade, a quiet, awkward youngster who had been made a deputy largely because he had hung around Langley's office adoringly since he was ten years old, was waiting for the Sheriff.

He sat on the edge of the desk now as Langley cleaned it out for the last time.

"I s-s-sure am going to miss you, Wade," said Bill. "I'm awful grateful to you for having the mayor appoint me sheriff, b-b-but it sorta worries me all the same. What if a guy like that Slim Burell should bob up in t-t-t-town! Golly, we'd sure need you then!"

"Slim Burell!" Langley laughed derisively and searched through the mess of papers on his desk until he found the poster he wanted. "Look, Bill, listen to this. *Wanted. For Robbery and Murder. Slim Burell. This man, on the night of July 9, robbed the Gulch City Stage Coach Company of \$10,000 single-handed, killing two employees of the company and wounding another. His description follows:*

Slim Burell: About thirty years old; six feet one, slender, dark hair, sharp features. Can be identified by a triangular scar on his right cheek. Use caution. This man is a dead shot and a notorious killer."

"The day Slim Burell comes to this town I'll pack up and come back here again. Why, that hombre is probably headed toward the Dakota badlands right now! I might even meet him someplace on the road! Anyway, it's a sure thing that you'll never meet him in Skull Creek. Even a lawbreaker has to have some excitement when he's hiding out."

"I hope that's right," said Bill. "I sure wouldn't

look forward to t-t-t-tanglin' with a guy like that!"

"Well, you'll do all right, and don't worry about any Slim Burells. They just don't grow in this territory any more." With that, Langley turned over the jail keys to Bill, wished him luck and left.

The next day the sun was just striking the brow of the hill as Wade Langley, tapping his four-horse team lightly with his reins, eased his wagon down the gentle slopes towards the caravan. He felt as free as a frisky young colt. Below him, he could see the wagon train stirring, getting in line to start the journey over the deserted plains which lay between them and their goal. In a few moments he would be on his way, kicking the dust of Skull Creek off his boots, bound for new land and new adventure.

The early morning sun was hot. Langley pulled his team to a halt on a small, grassy ledge beside the creek, dismounted and knelt down beside the running water. He drank thirstily. As he turned away and walked up over the embankment, he found himself suddenly face to face with a lanky cowhand leading his horse down to water. Both started, then Langley smiled and said, "Howdy. I didn't see you coming." The cowhand grunted, ignored Langley's hand and went on down to the edge of the water.

Langley shrugged and thought to himself, "That's strange behavior for anybody from this section." With that, he dismissed the matter from his mind.

He climbed back aboard the wagon, clucked to the horses and started down the slope.

As he approached the caravan, Joe Twiller greeted him.

"Howdy, Langley! Where've you been? We're ready to leave."

"I'm ready to start any time you are."

"By the way, Joe," said Langley, "Did you see that scar-faced cowhand go by a few minutes ago? I wondered if he was part of your outfit."

"No," replied Joe, "He isn't with us. Must be riding alone. Well, swing your wagon in behind mine and we'll get started."

"Gee-hup!" Langley slapped his horses with the reins and the wagon ambled and jogged forward.

As he settled down for the long tedious journey, the strange behavior of the cowhand at the edge of the creek came to mind. Idly he wondered what outfit the man was from. As he joggled along in the sun, reins dangling, he musingly chewed a long blade of grass and tried to place the scarred face of the cowhand in its proper category.

"I sure thought I could place everyone in this county," he thought, "but I'll be hanged if I can figure out why *that* guy looks so familiar. If anybody has a good memory for names and faces, it's a sheriff, but on this one I'm stuck."

Suddenly he picked up the reins, slapped them across the horses backs, swung the wagon out of line on two wheels and pulled up parallel to Joe Twiller.

"Joe! I'm going back to town! Help me unharness a horse and then put a man on my wagon! Hurry!"

Joe looked at Langley and laughed, "Are you crazy!" What's the matter? Did you forget to kiss the Buckeye barmaid goodbye?"

"Cut the joking," snapped Langley, "Remember that guy I told you about? It's *Slim Burell*! I'm sure of it! And the Skull Creek bank is getting that gold shipment from the West today. There's no one in town to stop him except Bill Slade, and *he* couldn't scare a rabbit!"

Langley slipped the last harness strap free, mounted on his horse, and wheeled back to the east, riding hell bent for leather.

It was a scant twenty minutes later when the sheriff clattered into Skull Creek.

Bang! Bang-bang! Bang! The sound of shots made him spur his horse even faster in the direction of the bank. The street was ominously silent. Every person had ducked into houses or stores.

Langley jumped from his horse and raced through the door of the bank. As he entered the shadowed room, guns cocked, he suddenly felt a jab in his back and heard a quiet, sure voice say, "Drop those guns, stranger, and stand where you are."

The sheriff obeyed. He had been caught breaking one of his own cardinal rules—to always know what's in back of you. His guns hit the floor. Langley raised his hands. "OK, Burell, you've got me!"

There was a moment of silence. Then the voice said, "*Burell*! Burell's lying on the floor with a bullet in his head. Why, Great Scott! What are *you* doing here, Langley? I thought you were one of Burell's sidekicks!"

Langley turned quickly and found himself face to face with Bill Slade, sheriff pro-tem of Skull Creek. He looked at Bill and suddenly discovered—in place of the stuttering, fumbling youngster he had left in charge of his office—a strong, sure figure with steel in his eye and authority in his voice.

"Why, Bill Slade!" said the chagrined Langley, "You sure got the drop on me that time. But I'm mighty glad you waited to find out who I was before finishing me off. And here I thought that you . . . Tell me what happened."

Bill smiled, "Well, this Burell killer thought he'd like to make an informal call on the bank today. But somehow I didn't like his manners when he rode into town, and I liked them even less when I followed him in here and heard him make a couple of rude demands of the teller. I called him on it, and we exchanged a couple of shots before he saw fit to lie down quietly. He's a pretty good shot, that Burell, but he didn't have either the aim or the draw that you drilled into me, Langley. Oh, what were you going to say about what you thought of me?"

"Not a thing, Bill. Not a thing," replied Langley softly. "Skull Creek certainly has been left in better hands than I thought. Well, I'd better get going if I'm going to catch up with that wagon train in time for grub. So long, kid."

Langley took a last look at Slade, no longer a boy but a man, and thought to himself, "That's sure one on you, Langley. But never let it be said that you stuck around when you weren't needed. I guess there's still a lot of this country that has a place for a man like me."

THE END



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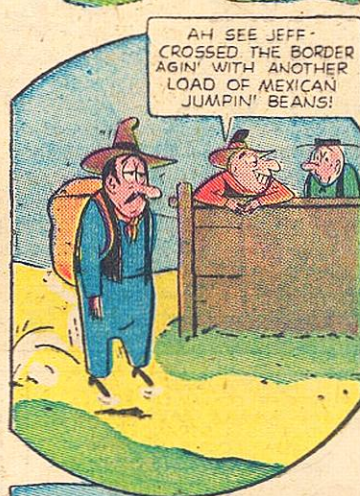
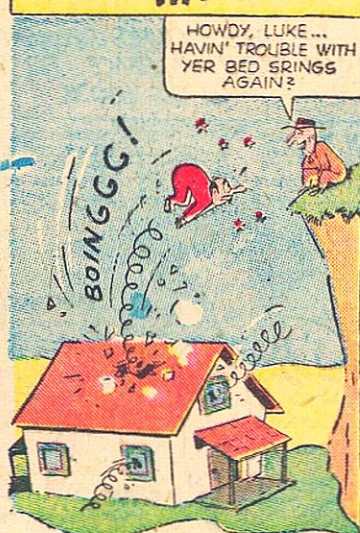
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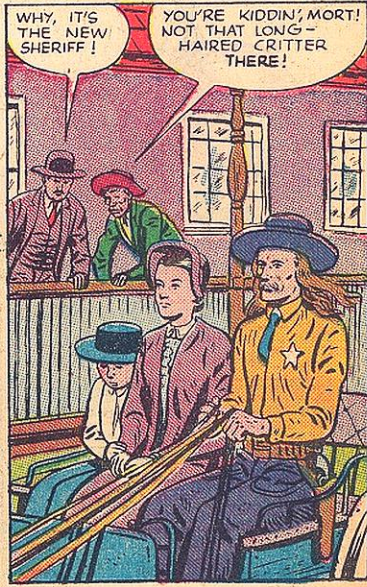
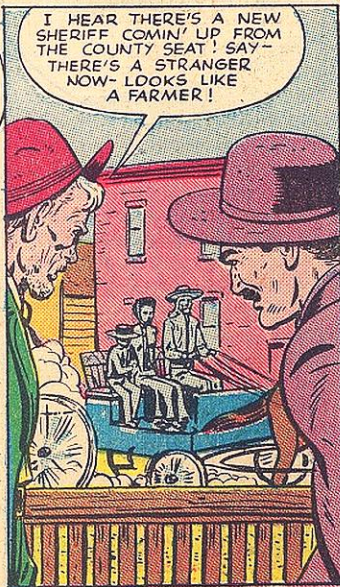
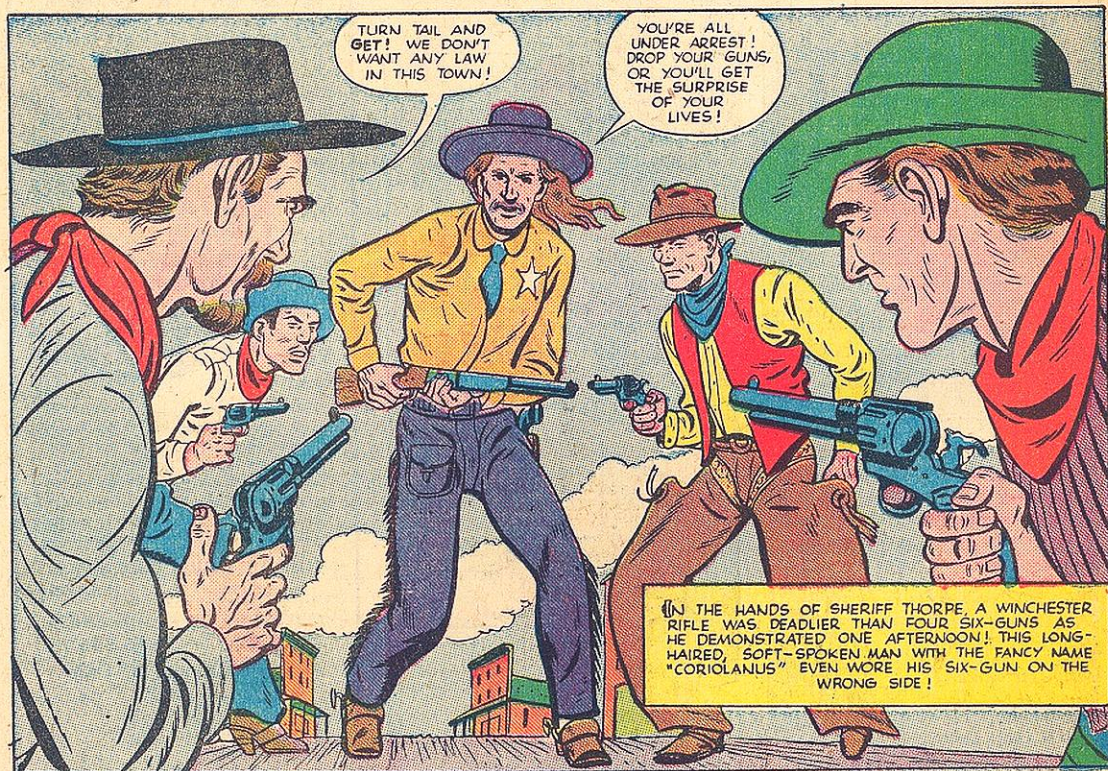
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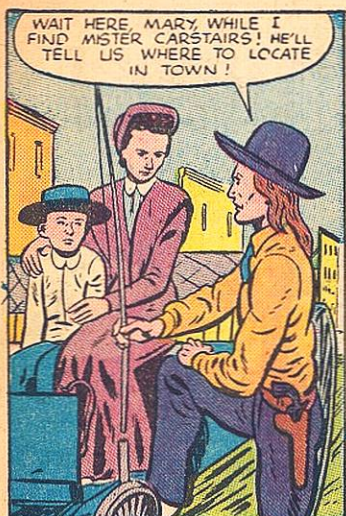
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SHERIFF CORIOLANUS THORPE

HIS COURAGE AND DARING BROKE UP A VICIOUS RANGE
WAR AND BROUGHT PEACE TO SUNDOWN VALLEY
IN THE 1880'S!





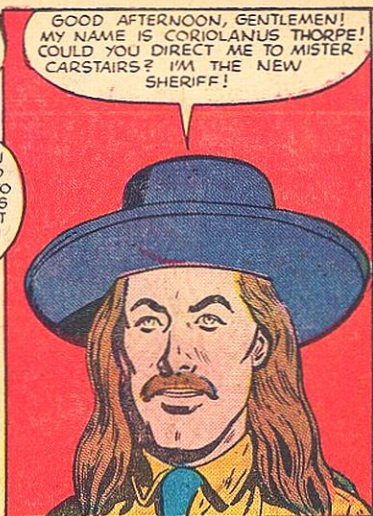
WAIT HERE, MARY, WHILE I FIND MISTER CARSTAIRS! HE'LL TELL US WHERE TO LOCATE IN TOWN!



THAT FELLOW LOOKS MORE LIKE AN ACTOR, WITH THAT LONG HAIR!

AND HOW IN BLAZES CAN A MAN HANDLE A SIX-GUN WHEN HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO WEAR IT?

I'VE NEVER YET SEEN A MAN REACH AROUND BEHIND HIMSELF TO DRAW - UNLESS HE'S LEFT-HANDED - BUT THEN IT'D BE ON BACKWARDS!

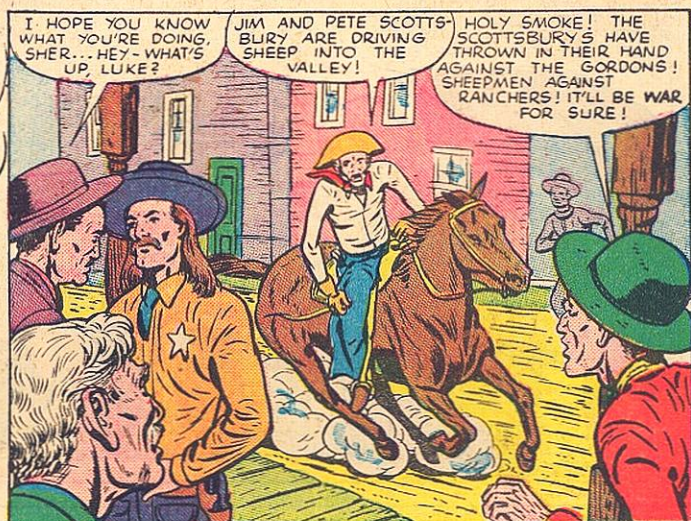


GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN! MY NAME IS CORIOLANUS THORPE! COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO MISTER CARSTAIRS? I'M THE NEW SHERIFF!



GLAD TO MEET YOU, SHERIFF! I'M, MORT CARSTAIRS! YOU'RE NOT ONLY THE NEW SHERIFF - YOU'RE THE FIRST LAWMAN TO COME TO SUNDOWN VALLEY! BUT BEIN' A FAMILY MAN, MAYBE YOU BETTER TURN RIGHT AROUND AN' HEAD BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! THIS IS A RUGGED TOWN!

I'M MUCH OBLIGED FOR YOUR CONCERN, SIR, BUT IF MY FAMILY ISN'T SAFE HERE, NO OTHER FAMILY IS, EITHER! THAT'S MY JOB, MISTER CARSTAIRS, TO BRING THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW TO THIS VALLEY!



I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, SHER...HEY - WHAT'S UP, LUKE?

JIM AND PETE SCOTTS - BURY ARE DRIVING SHEEP INTO THE VALLEY!

HOLY SMOKE! THE SCOTTSBURY'S HAVE THROWN IN THEIR HAND AGAINST THE GORDONS! SHEEPMEN AGAINST RANCHERS! IT'LL BE WAR FOR SURE!



JIM SCOTTSBURY AND HIS BROTHERS BROKE INTO THE VALLEY LAST NIGHT WITH A THOUSAND HEAD OF SHEEP! THE RANCHERS ARE BUZZIN' LIKE HORNETS! IT AIN'T SAFE OUTSIDE TOWN! OWW, GIMME A HAND, BOYS...

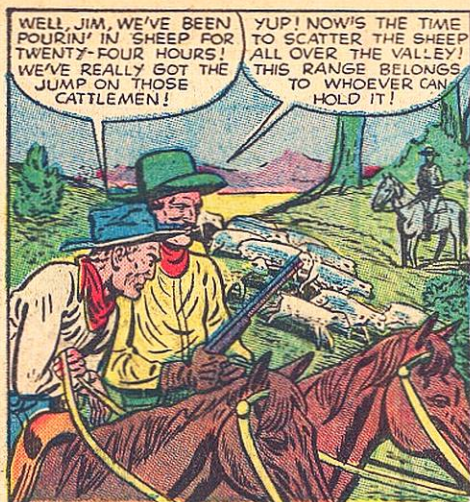
LUKE'S BEEN SHOT!



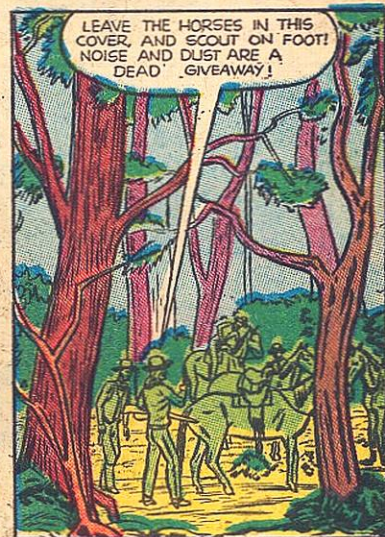
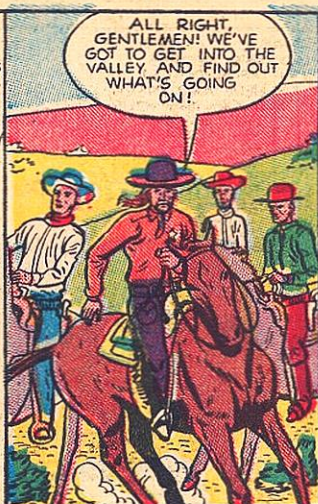
YOUR WIFE SEEMS PRETTY HANDY WITH BANDAGES, SHERIFF THORPE!

YES, MARY HAS SEEN GUN-SHOT WOUNDS BEFORE! WELL, GENTLEMEN, IT APPEARS I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME! I'LL ORGANIZE A POSSE AND SEE IF WE CAN HEAD OFF THIS TROUBLE!

TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, SHERIFF - IT'S SUICIDE TO GO INTO THOSE HILLS!



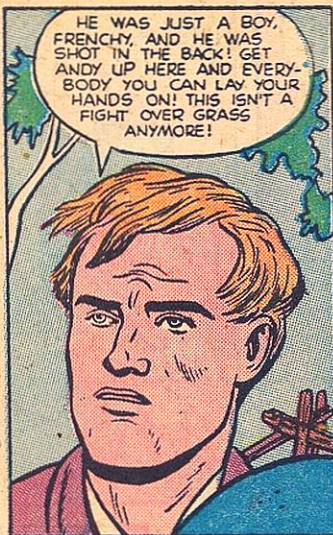






THAT HORSE IS DRAGGIN' SOMETHING, TOM!

COME ON! THAT LOOKS LIKE MY KID BROTHER'S PONY!



HE WAS JUST A BOY, FRENCHY, AND HE WAS SHOT IN THE BACK! GET ANDY UP HERE AND EVERYBODY YOU CAN LAY YOUR HANDS ON! THIS ISN'T A FIGHT OVER GRASS ANYMORE!



ALL RIGHT, MEN! WE'LL SPREAD OUT AND COME IN ON THE SCOTTSBURYS FROM ALL SIDES! AND DON'T LET A MAN SLIP THROUGH!



THAT TAKES CARE OF TWO OF THEM! CLOSE IN, MEN, AND RUSH THE CABIN!

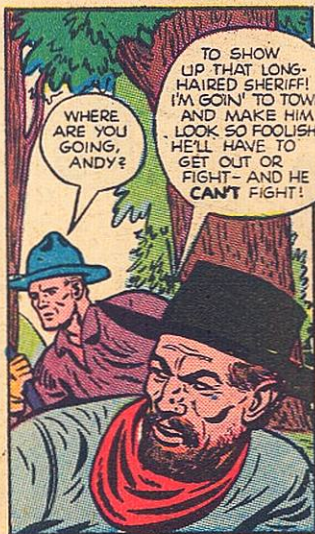
THAT'S JIM SCOTTSBURY'S RIFLE! HE SHOOTS LIKE A FIEND-A MAN CAN'T SHOW HIMSELF FOR A SECOND-LET ALONE RUSH THE CABIN!

KEEP LOW, THEN! THEY'VE GOT TO RUN OUT OF LEAD SOON, AND THEN WE'LL GET 'EM! KEEP SHOOTING!



GORDON! THERE'S A POSSE THE SIZE OF THE U.S. CAVALRY HEADIN' THIS WAY!

WE'LL HAVE TO PULL OUT! THIS THING HAS GONE TOO FAR TO SETTLE IN COURT-WE'LL GET 'EM NEXT TIME! SLOW UP THE FIRE AND PULL OUT THE BOYS!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ANDY?

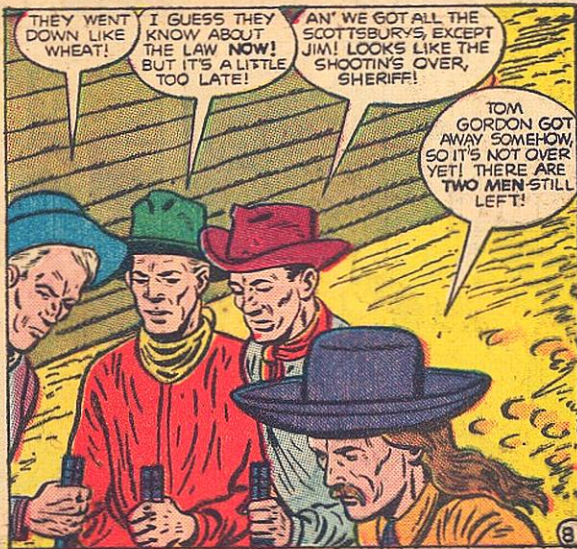
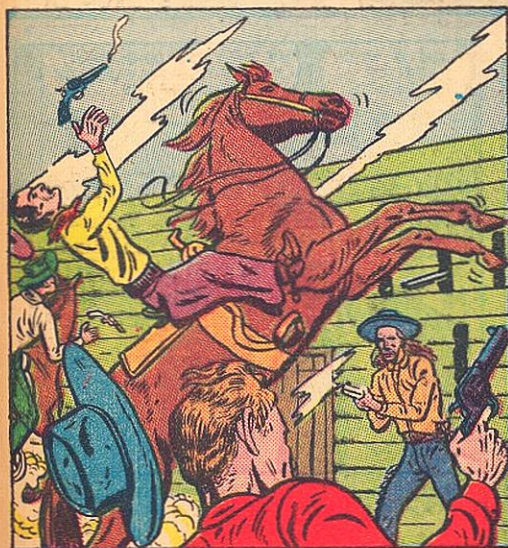
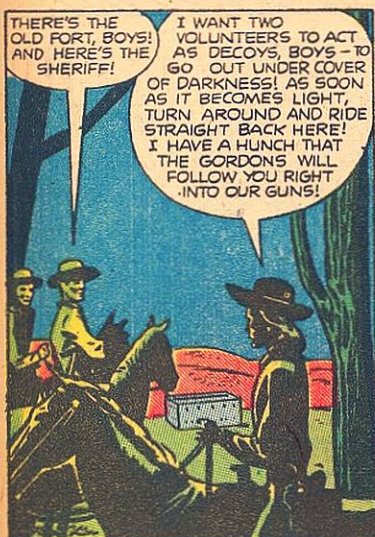
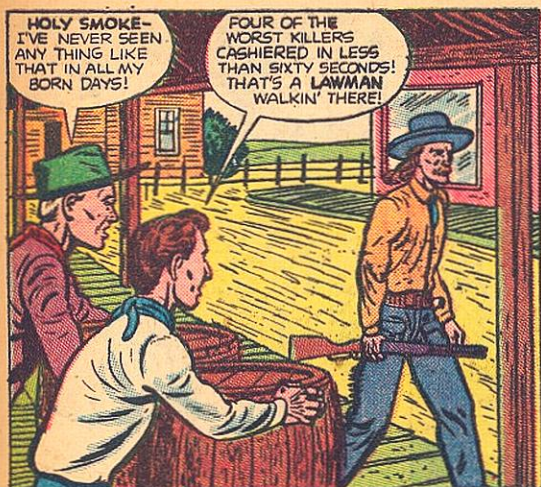
TO SHOW UP THAT LONG-HAIRED SHERIFF! I'M GOIN' TO TOWN AND MAKE HIM LOOK SO FOOLISH HE'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OR FIGHT-AND HE CAN'T FIGHT!

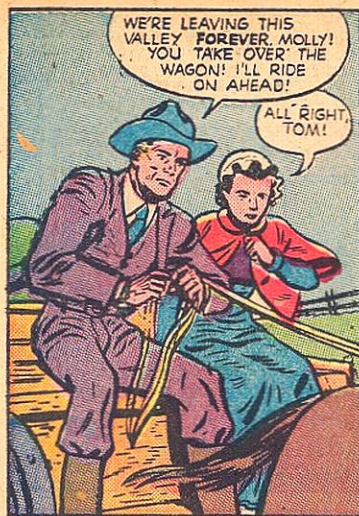


THERE'S ANDY MAXTON HEADIN' OFF-GRAB ANYBODY YOU CAN FIND, MEN! I'M GOIN' TO GET THAT KILLER-THEN I'LL BE BACK AND WE'LL FINISH THIS BUSINESS! MEET ME AT THAT OLD APACHE FORT NEAR THE GORDON RANCH! ADIOS!

THE SHERIFF HASN'T PULLED A GUN YET! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE'LL SEE HIM DO IT OR NOT!







WE'RE LEAVING THIS VALLEY FOREVER, MOLLY! YOU TAKE OVER THE WAGON! I'LL RIDE ON AHEAD!

ALL RIGHT, TOM!



THE GORDONS ARE RUINED—AND SO ARE WE! BUT TOM GORDON ISN'T GOIN' TO GET AWAY FROM HERE ALIVE! THERE HE IS NOW!



SO LONG, GORDON!



LATER, THAT DAY...

REACH! TOM GORDON WAS FOUND SHOT—AND YOU'RE GOING TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER!

THORPE! YOU'LL NEVER CONVICT ME! I'LL WIN THIS WAR YET!



COME ON, MOLLY! THE TRIAL'S BEGINNING!

TOM'S GUN! I'LL FIRE THE LAST SHOT FOR TOM! SCOTTSBURY MUST DIE!



JIM SCOTTSBURY, TOM GORDON IS AVENGED—DIE! OH, THE GUN MISFIRED!

SEIZE THAT WOMAN!

CLICK!



THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY TEARS IN SUNDOWN VALLEY, BUT THIS IS THE END!



WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT, GENTLEMEN?

WE FIND THE DEFENDANT, JIM SCOTTSBURY, GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE!

WELL, MORT! THE LAW HAS COME AT LAST!

AND IT'S COME TO STAY, SAM! SHERIFF THORPE WILL SEE TO THAT!

THE END

WATCH "BLACK DIAMOND" WESTERN FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF \$1,500 PRIZE CONTEST WINNERS!

STAMP PAGE

by **SIDNEY M. ELIAS**

Tannou Touva

IF YOU are a collector of odd shaped stamps such as diamonds and triangles, you most likely have some stamps of Tannou Touva in your collection, for during 1934-6, this country issued no less than 51 of these odd shaped stamps.

The name Tannou Touva is somewhat mysterious as well as quite difficult to locate on a map but, if you knew its more common name of Outer Mongolia, you would not have any trouble in finding it. Tannou Touva or Outer Mongolia lies between the southern border of Siberia, and north-west of Inner or Chinese Mongolia somewhere in the central portion of Asia.

Now that we have located Tannou Touva, let's find out about its inhabitants and what they do for a living. The country for the most part is a wilderness with a good portion of it unexplored. Large mountain ranges mostly covered by snow all year long, lock the entire country in on all four sides. The land within these mountains is a large plateau covered with lakes and rough country. The climate during the winter months is severe, averaging 12 degrees below zero and during the summer averages 66 degrees. In other words, the severe winters and its inaccessibility discourages people to settle in Tannou Touva. There are however hardy people living there but they are for the most part Mongolian tribes. These tribes live in tents or makeshift huts and earn their livelihood by raising sheep, ponies, and reindeer. They do not remain in one place long for whenever they need new grazing lands for their animals they just pack up and leave. In addition to Mongolian tribes, there are Turkic and Chinese and a mixture of all three.

In 1911, with the fall of the Chinese Empire, Outer Mongolia declared its independence. In 1924, a republic fashioned on the Soviet Russian style, was put into effect. Since then there has been a steady influx of Russian inhabitants.

Stamps of Tannou Touva are manufactured in Russia and most of them are sold to stamp collectors, as few Mongolians can either read or write.

UNITED STATES BARGAIN



It sounds unbelievable, but it's true! 50 different United States stamps ranging in age as far back as over 60 years and in face value as high as one dollar. Only postage, commemorative and air mails included. Nothing else. Extra 2 Jap Occupation of Philippines, all for only 10c to approval applicants. Please state whether approvals shall consist of U. S. or foreign stamps or both.

GLOBUS STAMP CO. 268 Fourth Ave., N. Y. 10, N. Y., Dept. 441

118 DIFFERENT STAMPS

including commemoratives, charities, airmail, surcharges, sets, etc. Only 3c to APPROVAL BUYERS.

FREE! ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Amazing Roosevelt commemorative collection FREE! Postage 3c. Approvals. Hurry—one to a customer.

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Box 1002 Church St. Annex New York 8, N. Y.

500 STAMPS FOR ONLY 10¢

INCLUDES STAMPS CATALOGUING UP TO 25c EACH! ALSO APPROVALS.

MYSTIC STAMP COMPANY

Camden 40, New York

80 AMERICAN

All different Stamps from North America.

Only 5c to Approval Buyers.

BRYSON STAMP CO. Drawer F-1, Rossford, Ohio

GIGANTIC CANADIAN BARGAIN

Complete set Royal Victoria Coronation Jubilee, new George VI set, Confederation, Geo. V set, etc. A gigantic bargain. Only 1c to approval applicants.

ENGLISH STAMP CO. Dept. C So. Orange, N. J.

1c GIVEN—Famous Americans Set plus Flag Set plus National Parks Set, plus the Presidential Set to \$5. A Total of 99 Stamps Absolutely Free to Customers for our unsurpassed United States or Foreign Selections. Send 3c Postage for 15 of the Above Mentioned Stamps plus \$5.55 full particulars. Dept. 766 Triboro Stamp Co., 145 Nassau St., New York City.

200 Different Stamps ONLY 3¢

To Approval Buyers Contains stamps worth up to 13c each!

LITTLETON STAMP CO., LITTLETON 3, N. H.

STAMP COLLECTING OUTFIT

Packet of WORLDWIDE STAMPS. Package of Hinges, Perforation Gauge and Millimeter Scale, Watermark Detector. Everything 10c to approval buyers.

LORRAINE W. BROWN, Dept. C, Marion, Mich.

107 DIFFERENT 3c

STAMPS FROM COCHIN. OCEANIC CAMEROUN.

Matta, Cyprus, etc. to Approval Buyers.

DIXIE STAMP CO., Dept. 6 Milwaukee 1, Wis.

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SCARCE STAMPS NEARLY 100 YEARS OLD: Roosevelt Set COMPLETE 55 & 510 stamps: Army, Navy, Marines, Commem., 19th Century Revenues: Columbian Exposition Comm. Value 10c. ALL only 5c to U. S. approval applicants.

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50 HUNGARY 5c

All Different To Approval Buyers

GOLDEN STAMP CO. Box 34-C, Rugby Station, Brooklyn 3, New York

\$1 - \$2 - \$5 U.S. STAMPS

Included in our Giant Bargain packet of U.S. Commemorative, Airmail & High Value Stamps only 5c to applicants for U.S. approvals.

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PONY EXPRESS STAMP

also all different others. Only 10c to approval applicants.

V. L. TIPPETT 1318 Clay Ave., Pelham Manor, N. Y.

WOW! \$10.00 Worth Of Fun 10c!

What a treasure hunt! Big package 500 Foreign Stamps, including airmails, pictorials and others from the world over. Stamps worth up to 25c each. This offer sent for 10c to approval applicants only.

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1050 DIFFERENT STAMPS GIVEN

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Hey Fellas!



Make Your Own "Bee Bop" BELTS

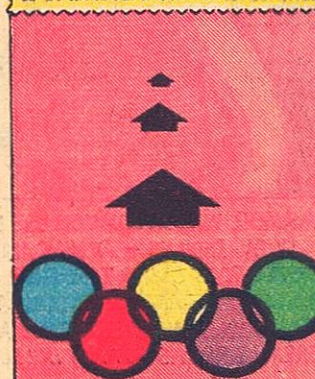


\$2.00 **\$1.00**
KIT A205-Links 1 1/2" wide, KIT A207-Links 1 1/2" wide. Complete with jewelry and studs.
Black or Brown
It's thrilling to make your own belts. Simple link assembly—instructions enclosed. Finest calfskin. Enclose money, we ship prepaid. Sent C.O.D., plus postage.

Send COUPON Today!

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Name
Address
City State

AROKRAFT
Dept. BD A.P.
32 W. RANDOLPH ST. CHICAGO 1, ILL.



STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW!

by C.H. MOORE

THE BOOMERANG

WAS USED BY THE HOPI INDIANS FOR HUNTING!

THE BOOMERANG WAS THROWN WITH GREAT SKILL AND DESIGNED TO GO STRAIGHT TO ITS TARGET AND NOT RETURN! IT WAS USED MOSTLY TO HUNT RABBITS!



WHEN YOU SAY-
CHOCOLATE
SQUASH
SUCCOTASH
OR HOMINY
-YOU ARE USING
PURE INDIAN WORDS

THE SEMINOLE INDIANS

GREW BEARDS AND MUSTACHES!

THEY ALSO SHAVED THE HAIR FROM THEIR HEADS EXCEPT FOR A STRIP DOWN THE MIDDLE WHICH WAS BRAIDED IN THE BACK AND A STRIP AROUND THE FOREHEAD



THE SNOW SNAKE IS NOT A SNAKE!

IT IS A SMOOTH PIECE OF HICKORY STICK ABOUT 7 FEET LONG - USED IN PLAYING AN INDIAN GAME!

THEY SLIDE THE STICK OVER ICE OR SNOW - THE DISTANCE AND POSITION OF THE STICKS DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF POINTS THE PLAYERS GET.



ARMOR WAS IN COMMON USE BY THE HUPA INDIANS - IT WAS MADE OF CEDAR RODS BOUND TOGETHER WITH NATIVE TWINE AND FITTED LIKE A VEST.

IT WAS FAIRLY EFFECTIVE AGAINST ENEMY ARROWS BUT NOT BULLETS!

THE PAIUTE INDIANS OF ARIZONA BUILT AND LIVED IN THE CRUEST FORM OF HOUSE KNOWN TO MAN!

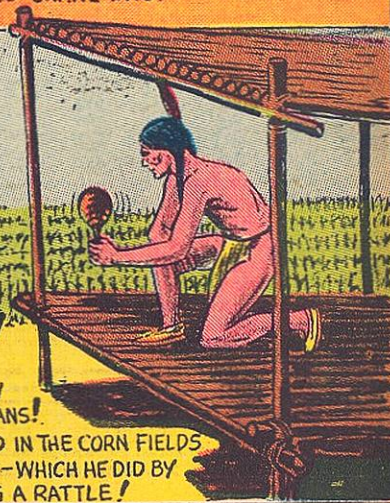
IT WAS JUST MADE OF SEVERAL BRANCHES SUPPORTED BY TWO STICKS, PLACED IN A SEMI-CIRCLE AND COVERED WITH LEAVES OR GRASS! THEY WERE JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR ONE PERSON TO CRAWL INTO!



HUMAN SCARECROWS!

WERE USED BY THE VIRGINIA INDIANS!

AN INDIAN WAS POSTED IN THE CORN FIELDS TO SCARE AWAY CROWS - WHICH HE DID BY SHOUTING OR SHAKING A RATTLE!



NOW!
ALL 5 FAMOUS JOWETT COURSES

IN 1 COMPLETE MUSCLE BUILDING VOLUME! 25¢

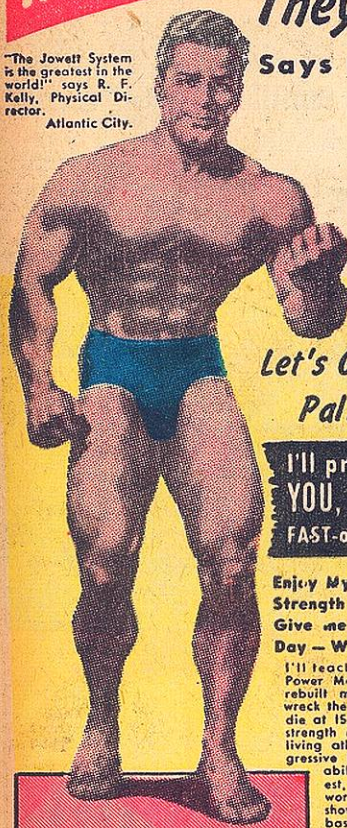
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AND A
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BOOK OF
FAMOUS
STRONG MEN!
FREE!

They Used to "Push Me Around"

Says George F. Jowett . . . World's Strongest Man

"The Jowett System is the greatest in the world!" says R. F. Kelly, Physical Director.

Atlantic City.



Let's Go
Pal!

I'll prove I can make
YOU, too, a HUSKY He-Man
FAST-or it won't cost you a cent!

Enjoy My "Progressive Power"
Strength Secrets!
Give me 10 Easy Minutes a
Day - Without Strain!

I'll teach you the "Progressive Power Method" through which I rebuilt myself from a physical wreck the doctors condemned to die at 15, to the holder of more strength records than any other living athlete or teacher! "Progressive Power" has proven its ability to build the strongest, handsomest men in the world. And I stand ready to show you on a money back basis - that no matter how flabby or puny you are I can do the same for you right in your own home. Let me prove I can add inches to your arms, broaden your shoulders, give you a man-sized chest, powerful legs and a Rock-like back - in fact, power your whole body so quickly it will amaze you! Yes, I'll jam you with power and self-confidence to master any situation - to win popularity - and to get ahead on the job! Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be.

Just a Few of the Records of

George F. Jowett

whom experts call the "Champion of Champions"

- * World's welter weight wrestling champion at 17
- * World's weight lifting champion at 19
- * Reputed to have the strongest arms in the world.
- * Four times winner of the world's most perfectly developed body . . . plus many, many other world records!

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Send only 25c for my 5 easy-to-follow, picture-packed courses now in 1 complete volume "How to Become a Muscular He-Man." Try it for one night! Experience the thrilling strength that surges through your muscles.

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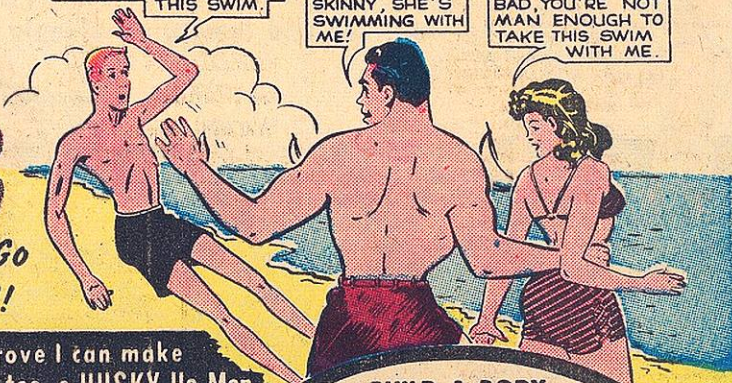
FREE!



BUT, JANE PROMISED ME THIS SWIM.

OUT OF MY WAY SKINNY, SHE'S SWIMMING WITH ME!

GEORGE, IT'S TOO BAD, YOU'RE NOT MAN ENOUGH TO TAKE THIS SWIM WITH ME.



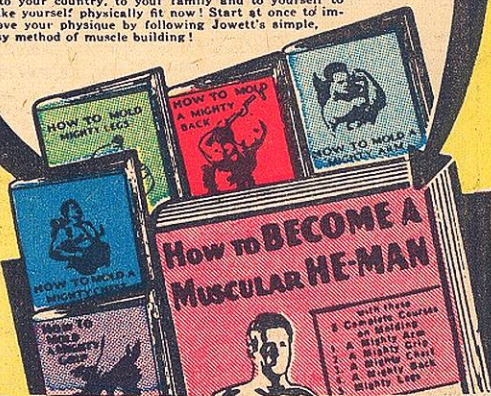
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I am making a drive for thousands of new friends fast—REGARDLESS OF COST!

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All for one low price of only \$4.98!



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THE CAMERA has all the latest features, including snapshot and time exposure and level view finder. Uses easy-to-get 127 film and takes 16 pictures on an 8-exposure roll. THE DEVELOPING KIT consists of

14 individual pieces as shown. There are 2 plastic trays, 1 metal print frame, 1 stirring rod, 1 package of two dozen sheets of contact paper, 3 Universal M-Q developer packs, 1 box acid-fixing solution, 1 plastic funnel, 1 GE darkroom light, 2 plastic clips and 1 easy-to-follow Handbook of developing and printing.

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☐ I enclose \$4.98 in advance with this order to save shipping charges. Please send the Complete Outfit to me all postage charges prepaid on your 10-day money-back guarantee offer.

REDUCE FAT!

UP TO 5 lbs. A WEEK YET EAT PLENTY!

The New, Scientific Way to

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Feel full of pep and energy. Overcome that tired feeling this Doctor Approved Way!

REDUCE 10-20-30-LBS.

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**NO STARVING
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**Absolutely
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The famous Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan which has helped many lose 20, 30 and up to 40 pounds, quickly and safely will be sent absolutely FREE with your order.

Send me at once for \$2 cash, check or money order one month's supply of Kelpidine Tablets, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied my money will be refunded.

Name

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Easy to use! Hard to lose! Every Man Will Want This Beautiful 4 Color Painted ZIPPER BILLFOLD With Gilt SAFETY CHAIN!

The beautiful painted scene embossed on this Billfold . . .

CAN'T RUB OFF

This smart-looking Gilt Chain is made extra strong to protect your valuables.

Style 520 — Hula Girl

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This is the first ZIPPER BILLFOLD and SAFETY CHAIN COMBINATION with all these unusual features ever to be offered at the sensational LOW PRICE of only \$1.98.

Billfold has a built-in Pass Case and built-in Plastic Coin Holder! Clover Safety Chain is designed so it can also be used as a handy Key Chain!

You've never in your lifetime seen a Billfold and Gilt Safety Chain combination to compare with this latest Illinois Merchandise creation. You've never before seen such luxurious appearance, and such real honest-to-goodness value at such a LOW PRICE! The beautiful painted designs are embossed with your choice of 4 life-like illustrations in breath-taking colors. These colorful scenes can't rub off—they're stamped right into the wallet itself. Billfold zips open "all-the-way-around" and has a riveted metal eyelet at one end where the Gilt Safety Chain is securely fastened. Inside is a built-in plastic coin holder, a roomy currency compartment, a built-in pass case, also a spacious window pocket for your membership cards. The Gilt Safety Chain is designed especially for this Billfold. It's long and flexible so you can carry Billfold in either the side or back pocket without interference. It's made extra sturdy to safeguard you against theft. A special self-locking device at the top fastens on to your belt or trousers. The spring lock at the bottom fits into eyelet of billfold but can also be disengaged and the chain then worn as a key holder. However, don't wait! Order your Painted Zipper Billfold and Gilt Safety Chain Combination today while this low price offer is in effect. **SEND NO MONEY!** Just mail the handy order coupon below on our 10 day money back guarantee offer. We feel sure that you'll be so delighted with your Billfold and Chain Combination once you see it and examine its many unusual features, that you'll want to order again for gifts to friends and relatives.

Each of these Billfold Styles comes with Safety Chain as above



Style 532—U. S. Map

Over 2 Million Satisfied Customers



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MY BILLFOLD SELECTION IS _____
(Give Style number and subject)

If more than one billfold is being ordered state how many here _____

MY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____